

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order to disguise an identity of said computer system to an application requesting a UUID for said client computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a storage device in said computer system including a primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said primary location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

generating said anonymous UUID, wherein said anonymous UUID does not identify any particular computer system;

storing said anonymous UUID in said primary location within said storage device; and

providing said anonymous UUID in response to a request for said computer system's UUID.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

said storage device including a secondary location for saving said real UUID while said anonymous UUID is being utilized as said computer system's UUID; and

6               in response to said storage of said anonymous UUID in  
7        said primary location, moving said real UUID from said  
8        primary location to said secondary location, wherein said  
9        real UUID is not located in said primary location after said  
10      move.

1               3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the  
2        steps of:

establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to  
disguise said computer system's identity;

said computer system starting execution of said boot  
process;

determining whether said cloak bit is set during said  
execution of said boot process; and

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
set, moving said real UUID stored in said primary location  
to a secondary location in said storage device and storing  
said anonymous UUID in said primary location, wherein said  
identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing  
said anonymous UUID as said client computer system's UUID.

1               4. The method according to claim 3, further comprising the  
2        step of in response to a determination that said cloak bit  
3        is cleared, moving said real UUID from said storage location  
4        to said primary location, wherein a true identity of said

5 computer system is represented by utilizing said real UUID  
6 as said computer system's UUID.

1 5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the  
2 steps of:

3 an application program requesting said computer  
4 system's UUID; and

5 said computer system providing a UUID stored in said  
primary location to said application program in response to  
said request.

6 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the  
steps of:

7 establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to  
disguise said computer system's identity;

8 8 said computer system providing said real UUID which is  
stored in said primary location to said application program  
in response to said request when said cloak bit is cleared;  
and

9 9 said computer system providing said anonymous UUID  
10 which is stored in said primary location to said application  
11 program in response to said request when said cloak bit is  
12 set.

1       7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the  
2       steps of:

3               determining whether said cloak bit is set or cleared;

4               in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
5       set, moving said real UUID from said primary location to a  
6       secondary location and moving said anonymous UUID from said  
7       secondary location to said primary location, wherein a true  
identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing  
said anonymous UUID as said computer system's UUID; and

              in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
cleared, moving said real UUID from said secondary location  
to said primary location and moving said anonymous UUID from  
said primary location to said secondary location, wherein a  
true identity of said computer system is represented by  
utilizing said real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

4       8. A system for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique  
Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order  
to disguise an identity of said computer system to an  
application requesting a UUID for said client computer  
5       system, said computer system including a CPU, comprising:

6               a storage device in said computer system including a  
7       primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said primary  
8       location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

9               said system for generating said anonymous UUID, wherein  
10          said anonymous UUID does not identify any particular  
11          computer system;

12               said anonymous UUID being stored in said primary  
13          location within said storage device; and

14               said system for providing said anonymous UUID in  
15          response to a request for said computer system's UUID.

9.       The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

              said storage device for including a secondary location  
for saving said real UUID while said anonymous UUID is being  
utilized as said computer system's UUID; and

              in response to said storage of said anonymous UUID in  
said primary location, said system for moving said real UUID  
from said primary location to said secondary location,  
wherein said real UUID is not located in said primary  
location after said move.

10.      The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

2               a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said  
3          computer system's identity;

4               said computer system for starting execution of said  
5          boot process;

6               means for determining whether said cloak bit is set  
7               during said execution of said boot process; and

8               in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
9               set, said system for moving said real UUID stored in said  
10          primary location to a secondary location in said storage  
11          device and storing said anonymous UUID in said primary  
12          location, wherein said identity of said computer system is  
13          disguised by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said client  
14          computer system's UUID.

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising in  
response to a determination that said cloak bit is cleared,  
said system for moving said real UUID from said storage  
location to said primary location, wherein a true identity  
of said computer system is represented by utilizing said  
real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

12. The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

an application program for requesting said computer  
system's UUID; and

4               said computer system for providing a UUID stored in  
5               said primary location to said application program in  
6               response to said request.

1           13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising:

2                 a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said  
3                 computer system's identity;

4                 said computer system for providing said real UUID which  
5                 is stored in said primary location to said application  
6                 program in response to said request when said cloak bit is  
7                 cleared; and

               said computer system for providing said anonymous UUID  
which is stored in said primary location to said application  
program in response to said request when said cloak bit is  
set.

14. The system according to claim 13, further comprising:

               means for determining whether said cloak bit is set or  
cleared;

               in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
set, said system for moving said real UUID from said primary  
location to a secondary location and moving said anonymous  
UUID from said secondary location to said primary location,  
wherein a true identity of said computer system is disguised  
by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said computer system's  
UUID; and

               in response to a determination that said cloak bit is  
cleared, said system for moving said real UUID from said

13 secondary location to said primary location and moving said  
14 anonymous UUID from said primary location to said secondary  
15 location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is  
16 represented by utilizing said real UUID as said computer  
17 system's UUID.